



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

PROJECT CEASEFIRE KC, BLUE SPRINGS, OAK GROVE FELONS INDICTED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that six felons were indicted by a federal grand jury today for illegally possessing firearms. Today's indictments are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* Jesse M. Redmond, 23, of Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that Redmond was in possession of a .45-caliber semi-automatic pistol on June 17, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. Redmond has two 2000 criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* Terry D. Williams, 20, of Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that Williams was in possession of a Browning 30/06 rifle, a SWD .380-caliber pistol and an F.I.E. .380-caliber pistol on Feb. 24, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. Williams has two 2003 criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance and trafficking.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* Shane M. Burkhart, 24, of Blue Springs, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that Burkhart was in possession of a Hi-Standard .22-caliber semi-automatic pistol on June 14, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. Burkhart has two 2003 criminal felony convictions for forgery and leaving the scene of an accident.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* Tony G. Stark, 33, of Oak Grove, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that Stark was in possession of a Remington .22-caliber rifle on May 13, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. Stark has a 1997 criminal felony conviction for distribution of a controlled substance and a 1999 criminal felony conviction for forgery.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelson. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* Terry D. Watts, 24, of Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that Watts was in possession of a Stollard Arms 9 mm semi-automatic pistol on May 29, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. Watts has a 2001 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance and a 2002 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelson. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* Dana L. Ford, 33, of Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that Ford was in possession of a Ruger 9 mm semi-automatic pistol on June 23, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. Ford has a 1994 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Angela C. Hasty. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in these indictments are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow